

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

MINUTES

October 3, 1999

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for a special meeting in House Room C of the General Assembly Building in Richmond Virginia on Sunday, October 3, 1999 with the following members present:

Mr. Kirk T. Schroder, President
Senator J. Brandon Bell, Vice President
Mrs. Jennifer C. Byler
Mr. Mark C. Christie
Mrs. Audrey B. Davidson

Mrs. Susan T. Noble
Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Mrs. Ruby W. Rogers
Senator John W. Russell

Mr. Paul D. Stapleton, Secretary and
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Schroder called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

First Review to Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia

Mr. Schroder acknowledged the fax received from Mrs. Byler, which consisted of editorial comments for the document. Mr. Schroder turned the document over to the staff to incorporate in the amended document. (Attachment A)

Mr. Schroder reminded Board members that the purpose of this meeting is to approve the proposed revisions of the document, *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, Preliminary APA Version, September 27, 1999*, to go out for public comment.

Following are motions made by Board members as they reviewed the document by sections:

8 VAC 20-131-10 Purpose

Senator Russell made a motion to delete “first and foremost” in the first paragraph. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

8 VAC 20-131-20 Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives

No comments.

8 VAC 20-131-30 Student Achievement Expectations

Senator Bell discussed with other Board members and Mr. Stapleton the use of “shall” and “may” in Section B and Section C. No motion was made.

8 VAC 20-131-40 Literacy Passport Test

No comments.

8 VAC 20-131-50 Requirements for Graduation

Senator Russell made a motion to insert “with a Standard Diploma” following “Credits Required for Graduation” for number two on page 10. Mrs. Byler seconded the motion. The motion was passed with seven yes votes and one opposed.

Mrs. Rogers made a motion to amend the first sentence in Section 5 on page 17 and add “of Excellence” after the word Seal. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Davidson and carried unanimously.

8 VAC 20-131-60 Transfer of Credits

Mrs. Byler made a motion to insert “public or private” after accredited, in the second line on page 19. The motion did not carry.

Mrs. Byler made an editorial revision to add a period at the end of the sentence in Section B.

8 VAC 20-131-70 Program of Instruction and Learning

Senator Russell asked how are gifted/talented students selected? Mr. Stapleton stated that all local divisions have their own guidelines and they also have state guidelines to follow.

Mrs. Davidson asked are there regulations as to what is offered? Dr. DeMary stated that there are regulations that say local divisions must have a continuum of

services, and when the plans are reviewed they are evaluated against the continuum of services.

8 VAC 20-131-80 Instructional Program in Elementary Schools

No comments.

8 VAC 20-131-90 Instructional Program in Middle Schools

Mrs. Davidson asked why the second sentence in Section C was recommended for deletion. Dr. Tom Shortt said that this was a recommendation from principals. Mr. Stapleton stated that this recommendation would be in the draft copy when the document is released for public comment, and he was sure that responses will come from parents, teachers, and principals.

8 VAC 20-131-100 Instructional Program in Secondary Schools

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-110 Standard and Verified Units of Credit

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-120 Summer School

Senator Bell asked why the number of clock hours in Section B was changed from 75 to 70. Mr. Schroder stated that the original SOA had 150 clock hours and that 75 was half of 150. The requirement now is 140 clock hours for summer school if the student is taking a repeat course, and 70 is half of 140 clock hours.

8 VAC-20-131-130 Elective Courses

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-140 College Preparation Programs and Opportunities for Postsecondary Credit

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-150 Standard School Year and School Day

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-160 Additional Reading Instruction

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-170 Family Life Education

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-180 Off-Site Instruction

Mrs. Byler asked about the appeal process if the principal does not allow a student to enroll and receive a standard or verified unit of credit for supervised correspondence courses. Mr. Stapleton said the appeal would go to the local school board.

8 VAC-20-131-190 Library Media, Materials and Equipment

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-200 Extracurricular and Other School Activities

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-210 Role of the Principal

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-220 Role of Professional Teaching Staff

Mrs. Byler suggested that Section B read as follows: "Following accepted curriculum guidelines, monitor students' progress in learning basic skills in all subjects, and recommend a course of action when progress is unacceptable in achieving the end goals." After further discussion Mrs. Byler made a motion to strike Section B. The motion did not carry.

8 VAC-20-131-230 Role of Support Staff

No comments.

8 VAC-20-131-240 Administrative Support Staff Required

Mrs. Byler made a motion to strike the second sentence in Section E, page 47. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

Mr. Christie made a motion to reinsert the deleted sections, 1-6 in Section A, page 44. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

8 VAC-20-131-250 Alternative Staffing Plan

No comments.

8 VAC 20-131-260 School Facilities and Safety

No comments.

*8 VAC 20-131-270 School and Community
Communications*

Mrs. Byler asked if information regarding the results of the AP Test would be included in Section 9a on page 53. Mr. Christie explained the rationale for doing it this way, and Mrs. Byler agreed.

Mrs. Byler made a motion to add 'and/or continuation' after the word 'establishment' in Section D on page 55. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christie and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Noble made a motion to add Section G on page 54 to read as follows: "The percentage of students taking college level courses and the percentage of those students passing at least one such course." Senator Russell seconded the motion. Mrs. Byler amended the motion to read: "The percentage of students taking college level courses." The motion carried unanimously.

8 VAC 20-131-280 Expectations for School Authority

Mrs. Davidson referred to Section E. 1 on page 60 which states: "Limited English proficient students shall have a one time exemption in each of the four core areas for SOL tests designed to assess SOL content in grades K-8." She wanted to know what happens if a student fails all the tests and whether or not he/she would be retained in that grade. Mr. Schroder said that would be a local school board decision. The State regulation says a student cannot be retained solely on the basis of the SOL exam; therefore, a student would have had to fail to meet other criteria in order to be retained.

**8 VAC 20-131-290 *Procedures for Certifying
Accreditation Eligibility***

No comments.

8 VAC 20-131-300 *Application of the Standards*

Mr. Christie made a motion to delete the colon after the word 'ending' in Section A. 3 on page 66. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a lengthy discussion on when the accredited with warning credit starts.

Senator Bell said his concern in general is that it is a complex approach, and if we as a Board are having a difficult time understanding this proposal that the laymen will also have a difficult time. Senator Bell said he supported the fully accredited categories. Although, he does have a concern with the changes to the provisionally accredited areas.

Mr. Schroder stated that the point of the proposed changes is to improve upon the existing classification system in two ways: (1) to allow people to have a better understanding of what is going on with a school; and (2) *Provisionally accredited* means that the schools are on track to make 70%--they are on the appropriate benchmark. *Provisionally accredited needs improvement* means a school that is not on track but not in a crisis or deep trouble; it just needs improvement. A school that is *accredited with warning* in a particular subject area is a school that is significantly off the benchmark and needs extra attention.

Mr. Schroder further stated that we have created a classification system that allows parents to better understand what accreditation status means and that allows state and local policy makers to better direct resources and attention to schools on the basis of their classification. Schools that are accredited with warning in four subject areas need a different type of help than a school that is accredited with warning in one subject area. Likewise, schools that are *provisionally accredited needs improvement* are schools that may not need the type of attention or direction that schools in warning might have. *Provisionally accredited* simply means that a school is on track and on its benchmark but not quite there yet.

Senator Bell questioned the area regarding the reconstitution issue. Senator Bell said it would be helpful to extend the time period into the second phase for the provisionally accredited schools.

Mrs. Byler suggested that the language be strengthened on page 76 (e) before the Board adopts the document.

Mr. Christie noted that at the top of page 72 (subdivision 8) the first line was left off. The beginning of the paragraph should read as follows:

8. *Accreditation Denied/Failed to Reconstitute: Following the academic year ending in 2006, a school that has failed ...*

Mr. Christie made a motion to revise the last paragraph on page 76. Mrs. Byler also amended Mr. Christie's motion. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously. The paragraph should read as follows: "Schools that receive this status shall annually report their progress toward meeting the requirements to be rated Fully Accredited to the Governor, the chairmen of the *House and Senate Education, Senate Finance, and House Appropriations committees* of the General Assembly, and the Board".

8 VAC 20-131-310 *Improvement Planning for Schools that are Accredited with Warning*

Mrs. Byler said the Board should be specific about what *assure* means on page 80 (D).

8 VAC 20-131-320 *School Improvement Levels*

Senator Russell said the first sentence should be revised to read as follows: "The Board has set the minimum acceptable level of annual improvement required for *all* schools beginning at the end..."

8 VAC 20-131-325 *Recognition and Rewards for School Accountability Performance*

There was a lengthy discussion on regulations for charter schools.

8 VAC 20-131-330 *Waivers*

No comments

8 VAC 20-131-340 *Effective Dates*

Mr. Christie made a motion to insert the following in item F on page 90: "Beginning with the accreditation ratings earned during the 2007-2008 school year, the awarding of an accreditation rating shall be based on the percentage of students passing SOL tests on a trailing three-year average of passing percentage in each of the four core academic areas."

Mrs. Byler made a motion to add the following at the end of the same sentence: "..., or the most current year's scores, whichever is higher."

Senator Russell seconded the motions. The first motion carried unanimously. The second motion carried with one opposed.

Appendix I

No comments.

Mr. Christie made a motion that any errors in spelling or punctuation that are nonsubstantive should be corrected by department staff. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Byler and carried unanimously.

Mr. Christie made a motion to adopt the draft proposal of *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* for public comment and for consideration in the APA process. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried with one abstention by Senator Bell.

Mr. Schroder said the dates for public comment would be announced at the end of this month.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Schroder adjourned the meeting of the Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 8:25 p.m.

President

Secretary of the Board